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under the Titan missile contracts.

Under the settlement, Martin Marietta admits no wrongdoing.

NBC NIGHTLY NEWS  
7:00 P.M.

NBC-TV  
MARCH 12

### Bomb Planted at Army Base

TOM BROKAW: In West Germany today, a ticking time bomb was discovered at a U.S. Army base near Stuttgart, but it was defused before it was too late. The bomb was hidden in a gym bag at an officers club. Had it gone off, officials said, Americans probably would have been killed.

### Makeup of the Contras

BROKAW: In this country, there are sharp differences over what the Contras, the rebels trying to overthrow Nicaragua's leftist government, represent. President Reagan has called them the moral equal of our Founding Fathers. But they come to their struggle with a very mixed background. Some of them used to be part of the old Somoza government.

Fred Francis has been spending some time with the Contras, and he reports tonight on how some of them are getting along.

FRED FRANCIS: Nicaraguans killed one another last week in greater numbers than in any battle of this four-year civil war. These are rebels, Contras, with one of the 30 they say died.

No reporters saw the fighting, but the wounded, the survivors, and two Sandinista prisoners say at least 200 Sandinistas were slain.

It has become a bloodier,

wider war since CIA funding for the Contras ended last May, largely because disenchanted peasants have swelled rebel ranks to 14,000 and the Sandinista regime has fielded an army of over 100,000, mostly draftees, to chase the Contras from the Northern and Central mountains.

Juan gave up his dirt farm six months ago to join the fight, he said, against communist control. Fidel Vasquez left a wife and four children because, he said, Sandinista policy would not allow them to survive.

The rebel leadership is struggling to arm the thousands who, like Juan and Fidel, have joined with similar complaints. Supplies are sporadic, boots as important as bullets. Fighting often stops while the rebels wait for both. These boots were bought in Guatemala. Once a man is in combat, the boots will last only two or three months.

In the haste to arm the recruits, the Contras have had to buy some very old weapons, like these 30-year-old Spanish-made rifles. They bought 5000 of them. But for the moment, they're useless because they came without ammunition clips.

There are enough supplies to keep 7000 men, half the force, in the field, often surplus weapons from non-communist countries outside Central America. And conservative Americans have raised \$8 million, men like retired General John Singlaub, who once criticized President Carter for suggesting that U.S. troops be pulled from Korea.

Singlaub is prepared to lead a fund-raising drive if Congress refuses a White House request for more covert aid.

GEN. SINGLAUB: I represent hundreds of thousands of

Americans who are sympathetic to your cause and want to help.

FRANCIS: But rebel commander Enrique Bermudez and other leaders have failed to convince the American people that theirs is an army of peasants with grass-roots support. Bermudez says they have survived with that support.

ENRIQUE BERMUDEZ: They give us information. They give us food. They take care of our wounded. We are winning the war in the field and we are losing it in Washington.

FRANCIS: The war in Washington is far from over. And while the rebels wait for support, many play the game taught to them by American Marines who once occupied this country. Few know that history or the difference between communism and democracy. They have simply picked the side which they think will treat them fairly.

ABC WORLD NEWS TONIGHT      ABC-TV  
7:00 P.M.                      MARCH 12

#### MX Missile Funding

PETER JENNINGS: As the Geneva talks were getting underway, the President was winning an important vote in Washington on funding for the MX missile. A subcommittee of the House today approved the money to build 21 more missiles. The full House and Senate vote later in the month.

#### C-130 Crash

JENNINGS: Near Fort Hood, Texas today, a C-130 military transport plane crashed and burned into flames while on a training mission. There were eight crew members on board.

Six of them died, two were injured. And there is no explanation for why it happened.

#### Iran-Iraq War

JENNINGS: It has been another day of heavy fighting in the Persian Gulf war. Iran today launched what's described as a major new ground offensive against Iraq. And at the same time, Iraqi planes bombed Teheran and five other Iranian cities.

It has not been easy for Western news organizations to cover the Persian Gulf war. Both Iran and Iraq have remained largely closed to outside journalists.

ABC's Bill Redeker recently returned from special assignment in Iran, and tonight he has a rare look inside that nation's revolutionary society.

BILL REDEKER: Four years after Iraq invaded Iran, the war grinds on. But in Iran the war is a holy crusade promoted on television with martial music and special effects. War here is something to be proud of, something to keep the fervor of this country's six-year-old revolution alive.

HUSSEIN-SHEIK-OH-SHAM: The war is right now in every house in Iran. It is in the heart of everybody. And we can mobilize as many as people we want to.

REDEKER: Despite the official enthusiasm, more than 125,000 Iranians have already given their lives in the name of Allah. In a land where fountains brimming with symbolic blood-red water serve as a reminder of the revolutionary cause, the authorities have justified the carnage, but for how much longer?

A divisive debate has emerged here over the value of continuing the war. In Iran's